



fnfare

MAY - JUNE ★ VOLUME 20 ★ NUMBER 4

U.S. NAVY BAND & SPECIALTY UNITS 1999 SUMMER CONCERT SCHEDULE WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. CAPITOL (EAST STEPS) Mondays, June 7 – August 30 at 8 p.m.	NAVY MEMORIAL 701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Tuesdays, June 8 – August 31 at 8 p.m.	PRESIDENT’S PARK/ THE ELLIPSE Constitution Ave. and 15th St., N.W. Thursdays, June 3 – August 26 at 7 p.m.
JUNE	JUNE	JUNE
7, Navy Band	8, Commodores	3, Commodores
14, Commodores	15, Navy Band & specialty groups	10, Cruisers
21, Sea Chanters	22, Sea Chanters	17, Commodores
28, Navy Band	29, Navy Band & specialty groups	24, Commodores
JULY	JULY	JULY
5, Navy Band & Sea Chanters	6, Navy Band & specialty groups	1, Cruisers
12, Navy Band	13, Navy Band & specialty groups	8, Sea Chanters
19, Sea Chanters	20, Navy Band & specialty groups	15, Cruisers
26, Navy Band	27, U.S. Marine Band	22, Cruisers
AUGUST	AUGUST	29, Sea Chanters
2, Country Current	3, U.S. Coast Guard Band	AUGUST
9, Commodores	10, Commodores	5, Commodores
16, Commodores	17, Navy Band & specialty groups	12, Commodores
23, Navy Band	24, Commodores	19, Cruisers
30, Sea Chanters	31, Commodores	26, Cruisers

SPECIAL CONCERTS

Memorial Day Concert, Navy Memorial, Monday, May 31 at 8 p.m.
Labor Day Concert, Navy Memorial, Monday, September 6 at 8 p.m.

Taking Navy Music to America

Still relishing in the glow of highly successful concert tours, Commander Ralph M. Gambone, The United States Navy Band and the Sea Chanters chorus under the direction of Master Chief Musician Chuck Yates, recently returned to Washington. The Navy Band traveled over 4,500 miles through five states and performed for a total of 26,795 patriotic and enthusiastic patrons.

The Navy Band began its 30-day tour in Dallas, Texas performing to a full house at the beautiful Eugene McDermott Concert Hall. Featured on the evening’s concert was Richardson, Texas native and former Dallas Wind Symphony member, Chief Musician Timothy Roberts who performed J.Demersseman’s “The Carnival of Venice” on alto saxophone. Other tour highlights included concerts at the University of North Texas

(Denton), Tulane University in New Orleans, La., the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa), and East Tennessee State University (Johnson City).

The Sea Chanters made a two-week whirlwind tour

Commander Ralph M. Gambone conducts the Navy Band at Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas on February 22, 1999.

through the great southwest states of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. They performed in 12 cities including Little Rock, Ark., Muskogee, Okla., and Duncanville, Texas for a total of 8,200 hospitable patrons.

Audiences were treated to a varied program from Gershwin, the Beatles, Gilbert and Sullivan to up-tempo spirituals. *ff*



Senior Chief Musician Constance D. Whitfield, narrator, announces the next selection at Tulane University in New Orleans, La. on March 11, 1999.

Performance Calendar

The U.S. Navy Band and specialty groups present the following FREE concerts. Tickets or reservations are not required unless noted (*). For more information call (202) 433-2525.

MAY

Navy Band
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1:15 P.M.
29th Annual Montpelier Spring Festival
Montpelier Mansion grounds
Rte. 197 at Montpelier Dr.
Laurel, Md.
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 8 P.M. *
Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts
801 Chase St.
Annapolis, Md.
*For ticket information call (410) 263-5544.
MONDAY, MAY 31 8 P.M.
Memorial Day Concert
Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Ceremonial Band
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 7 P.M. *
National Memorial Day Concert
U.S. Capitol (West Lawn)
Washington, D.C.
*With the National Symphony Orchestra

Sea Chanters
FRIDAY, MAY 14, NOON
Harford County Courthouse
Main & Office Sts.
Bel Air, Md.

Commodores
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 P.M.
Millersville University
Lyte Auditorium
Millersville, Pa.
SATURDAY, MAY 8, 5 P.M.
Southern Maryland Classic Jazz Band Festival
Hughesville Baptist Church
Rte. 5 at 231
Hughesville, Md.
SATURDAY, MAY 22, 7 P.M.
City Hall Park (Pavilion)
31 S. Summit Ave.
Gaithersburg, Md.
SUNDAY, MAY 30, 7 P.M.
Allen Pond Park
3400 Mitchellville Rd.
Bowie, Md.

Commodores combo
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 7 P.M. *
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C.
*For FREE reservations call (202) 433-6897.

Country Current
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 7 P.M.
Inner Harbor
The Gallery Amphitheater
Baltimore, Md.
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 4 P.M.
CONCERT IS CANCELLED
Dolphin Beach
Waterway Dr.
Montclair, Va.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1:30 P.M.
Public Service Recognition Week
The Mall (Jefferson Dr./3rd & 4th Sts., S.W.)
Washington, D.C.
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 7 P.M.
Rockburn Park
6145 Montgomery Rd.
Elkridge, Md.

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 5 P.M.
Town Center
Middle Ln.
Rockville, Md.

Country Current bluegrass quartet
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2 P.M.
Armed Forces Open House
Andrews Air Force Base
(Location TBD)
Camp Springs, Md.

Opera Ensembles
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2 P.M.
Glenview Mansion
608 Edmonston Dr.
Rockville, Md.

Brass Quintet
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 12:15 P.M.
National Building Museum
401 F St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

JUNE

Navy Band
SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 8 P.M.
Rose Tree Park
Rte. 1 at 252
Media, Pa.

Navy Band & Sea Chanters
SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 6 P.M. *
Cavalier Heights Visitors Center
(Rte. 340)
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Harpers Ferry, W.Va.
*For information call (304) 876-6066.

Sea Chanters
SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 7 P.M.
Inner Harbor
The Gallery Amphitheater
Baltimore, Md.
SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 7:30 P.M.
Bandstand (Boardwalk area)
Bethany Beach, Del.

Commodores
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 P.M. *
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Va.
*For more information call (757) 683-4336.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 4:30 P.M.
Pikesville Armory
601 Reistertown Rd.
Baltimore, Md.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 7:30 P.M.
Mason District Park
6621 Columbia Pike
Annandale, Va.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 7:30 P.M.
Friendship Heights Village Center
4433 S. Park Ave.
Chevy Chase, Md.
SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 6 P.M.
Lurman Woodland Theater
Catonsville High School
Catonsville, Md.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The United States Navy Band
Washington Navy Yard
617 Warrington Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20374-5054

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Commander Ralph M. Gambone, USN ■ Officer in Charge/Leader

Visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



I am writing this message to you upon returning from the Navy Band's 1999 Spring Concert Tour. I am happy to report that the 30-day tour was a complete success. The band performed for thousands of Americans of all ages from Texas to North Carolina. You would have been very proud of the way our musicians represented the United States Navy, the Navy Band and their country. It was a pleasure for me to conduct them every night, as their performances were always exciting and virtually flawless. The professionalism and dedication they displayed is indicative of the kind of performance we have come to expect from your Navy Band.

I am also happy to report that the Sea Chanters tour was equally successful. We received many letters and e-mails regarding their performances with comments ranging from, "dynamic" to "versatile" and "exciting." The Sea Chanters, under the direction of Master Chief Musician Chuck Yates, continues to enhance its reputation as one of the finest choral groups in the country.

After much planning, auditions and hiring we finally have our newest group online. Under the direction of Master Chief Musician Jerry Ascione, the "Cruisers" will fill a void at Navy Band since the loss of "Topside." Please see the feature article on the next page.

As summer rapidly approaches, we are preparing for this busy time of the year. An all-new "musical review" hosted by Naval District Washington will be presented at the Navy Memorial on selected Tuesday nights. The show will feature the Concert Band, Sea Chanters, Country Current and Cruisers. I think you will find these performances entertaining for the whole family. Also, due to the construction around the Washington Monument, our Thursday night performances at the Sylvan Theatre have been moved to the Eastside of the Ellipse. The concerts will begin at 7 p.m..

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and interest in your United States Navy Band.

Ralph M. Gambone, Commander, USN
Officer in Charge/Leader

NOTABLE QUOTES

"The band could not be improved...the selections were just right for a general audience and the performance and virtuosity of each musician was outstanding."

— Patrick Caffery
Former U.S.
Representative
Third District of Louisiana

"In our 12-year history as a performance series, Saturday evening's concert by the Sea Chanters was, without a doubt, one of the unmistakable 'highlight' concerts we've had the good fortune to host."

"Trinity Presents..."
Little Rock, Ark.

FEATURES/CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Navy Band Launches New Group

The Navy Band is proud to announce its newest specialty group, the "Cruisers" rock ensemble. Under the direction of pianist, Master Chief Musician Gerard J. Ascione, this five-member group will perform classic rock, rhythm and blues, and today's top 40 hits.

The group takes its name from the Navy's versatile, flexible, multi-missioned ship—**CRUISER**, and is ready to live up to its namesake by performing the best music for any occasion in the popular rock idiom.

The group includes Musicians First Class Kenneth H. Carr, guitarist; Peter A. Czekaj, audio technician; John L. Fisher, vocalist; Benjamin L. Grant, bassist; and John T. Parsons, drummer.

Carr, a native of Santa Cruz, Calif., attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. He was the guitarist for the Ray Charles Orchestra from 1986-1998. During his tenure with Ray Charles, Carr performed on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, and did 12 World Tours. He has also performed with Michael Bolton, Gladys Knight, Willie Nelson and Stevie Wonder. He reported to the Navy Band in November 1998.

Czekaj, a native of Lockport, N.Y., received a bachelor's degree in music in 1989 from



Front row: B. Grant, K. Carr
Back row: G. Ascione, P. Czekaj, J. Fisher, J. Parsons



the College at Buffalo-SUNY in Buffalo, N.Y. He enlisted in the Navy in 1990 and served as a trumpet instrumentalist and audio technician in Navy Band's San Diego and San Francisco. He reported to the Navy Band in February after a tour of duty with the SIXTH Fleet Band in Naples, Italy.

Fisher, Grant and Parsons reported to the Navy Band in March after a tour at the U.S. Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Md., where they performed in the "Electric Brigade" contemporary music ensemble.

Fisher is a 1984 graduate of William Penn High School in New Castle, Del. He enlisted in the Navy in 1985 and served as a vocalist and saxophonist in Navy Band's Guam, Seattle, SIXTH Fleet, and Newport.

Grant a native of Sanford, Fla., attended the University of Central Florida (Orlando). He

enlisted in the Navy in 1987 and served as a bassist with the ATLANTIC Fleet Band in Norfolk, Va. and Navy Band Orlando. As a member of the ATLANTIC Fleet Showband he made two six-month tours of South America traveling to over 30 countries and performing for an estimated 250,000 people.

Parsons is a 1981 graduate of Tabb (Va.) High School. He is the recipient of the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award and performed with the Regional Band of Kings Dominion - "Rock Around the Clock Show." Parsons was an active studio musician and private teacher for over 13 years in the Norfolk, Va. area. He enlisted in the Navy in 1993.

The Cruisers will be performing their first public performance on Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m. at President's Park on The Ellipse in Washington, D.C. *ff*

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR CONTINUED...

COUNTRY CURRENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 6:30 P.M.

Miller Park
Waterloo Blvd. & Miller Way
Exton, Pa.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 7:30 P.M.

Springettsbury Recreation Complex
1501 Mt. Zion Rd.
York, Pa.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 7 P.M.

Centennial Park
Clarksville Pike (Rte. 108)
Columbia, Md.

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 8 P.M.

Bandstand (Boardwalk area)
Rehoboth Beach, Del.

CRUISERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 5 P.M.

Vera Cope Weinbach Park
Westbrook Dr.
New Carrollton, Md.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, TBD

Jubilee Day
Mechanicsburg, Pa.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY

NAVY BAND & SEA CHANTERS

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 7 P.M.

Inner Harbor
The Gallery Amphitheater
Baltimore, Md.

COMMODORES

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 8 P.M.

Idlewild Pavilion
Idlewild & Aurora Sts.
Easton, Md.

All concert information is accurate at time of publication, though subject to change due to weather and other conditions. For concert updates call the 24-hour Navy Band Performance Calendar at (202) 433-2525, or visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil.

BAND HAS NEW ADDRESS

The Navy Band has a new mailing address. Please send all correspondence to:

THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
617 WARRINGTON AVE., S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20374-5054



Congratulations and Farewell to...Lieutenant Junior Grade David W. Hodge, operations officer and associate conductor of the Navy Band, who received the Navy Commendation Medal on the occasion of his transfer to the SEVENTH Fleet Band in Yokosuka, Japan as their new director.

Congratulations to...The Navy Band's new Master Chief Musicians, **M. Gretchen Lux, William J. Krantz, Diana D. Ogilvie, and Jon T. Youngdahl.**

FAREWELL to...Chief Musician **Carlton A. Lind**, staff arranger for the Navy Band, who retires after 24 years of service...and to Musician **First Class David J. Girdler**, audio technician with the Sea Chanters, who leaves the Navy after six years of service.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Master Chief Musician Gerard J. Ascione is no stranger to challenges. His extensive performing and leadership experience along with his positive, and engaging nature make him the ideal choice as the leader for the Navy Band's newest group, the "Cruisers."

educational and professional background...I began my piano studies at age 5, the French horn at age 10, and graduated from the Dana School of Music, Youngstown (Ohio) State University with a Bachelor of Music in French horn. After graduating from college, I freelanced on horn and piano in the Ohio/Pennsylvania area. In the spring of 1977, I joined the Naval Academy Band and played French horn in the concert band, and as a pianist, I was a founding member of the "Electric Brigade" contemporary music ensemble. In 1980 I joined the Navy Band as pianist with the Commodores, and became leader of the Commodores in 1989. The past 22 years have gone by so fast, everything seems like a blur. I've had the opportunity to perform with every Navy Band group since reporting here.

goals and direction for the Cruisers...This band has three distinct functions: VIP receptions, which is what I've been doing for the past two years, except as a solo pianist; Navy dances, a very important aspect of this group; and when our repertoire is complete, concerts. This is one of the most versatile groups with which I've ever had the pleasure of performing. In the first few engagements for the rhythm section (John Parsons-drums, Ben Grant-bass, Kenny Carr-guitar) everything "clicked" and had the comfortable feeling and communication like we had all been together for years. Our lead vocalist, John Fisher, is an incredibly dynamic singer. I first heard him sing with the Naval Academy Band and was so impressed by his vocal quality, versatility, and stage presence. He is QUITE a crowd pleaser. Direction? Our rhythm section is very comfortable with just about ANY style; we have two great lead singers, John Fisher and John Parsons; the rest of us sing background for a five-part vocal capability...so...I think this will be an extremely entertaining group.

spare time interests and activities...My family is THE central part of my life. We spend as much time together as possible. I also love to do my own car repair, thereby keeping my mechanic in business for a long, long time! *ff*



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Contact Information

Public Affairs Office
Washington Navy Yard
617 Warrington Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20374-5054

phone (202) 433-2525
www.navyband.navy.mil